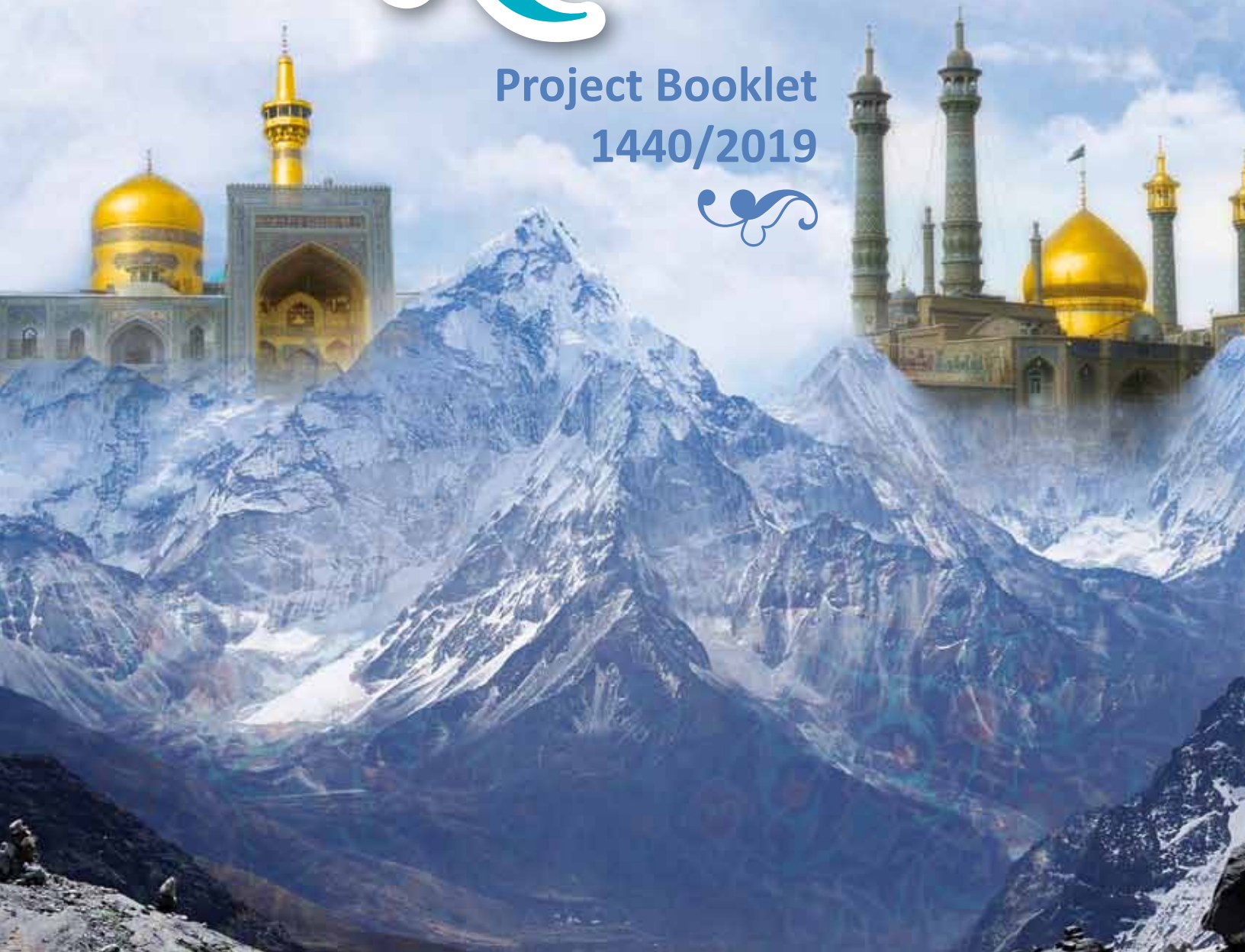
AL-KISA FOUNDATION

the ten days of al-Karāmah

Project Booklet
1440/2019



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INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

Jaffer, Masuma. *Lady Fatima Masuma (a) of Qum*.
Published by: Jami'at al-Zahra Islamic Seminary for Women - Qum.
First Edition 2003 – 1424 - 1382.

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بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ اللَّـهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

Surely, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-conscious among you. (49:13)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Salāmun ʿAlaykum! May Allāh bless you and your families. As we near the end of the Islamic year, we can take time to reflect on the past ten months and look forward to elevating our spirituality. The first ten days of Dhul Qa'dah are called The Ten Days of al-Karāmah. These ten days are celebrated with the wilādāh of two blessed personalities: Sayyidah Fāṭimah al-Maʿṣūmah (1st Dhul Qa'dah) and Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (A) (11th Dhul Qa'dah).

Al-Karāmah is a very high level of connection to Allāh that one can reach. We can understand Karāmah as honor, dignity, and kindness that is achieved through taqwa, God consciousness. This level of human spirituality is reached through sincerity and a conscious effort to achieve nearness to Allah.

Thus, the purpose of the ten days of al-Karāmah is to establish a strong connection to the fuyuḍāt ilāhi (blessings of Allah) and the blessed personalities who have reached this level. Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (A), whose wilādāh completes these blessed ten days, was given the title ar-Riḍā by Allah because he was always content and happy with whatever Allāh chose for him, Allāh was happy with him and *even* his enemies were happy with him! As his followers, we can embrace contentment and focus on the purpose of our lives, inshā'Allāh.

His beloved sister, Sayyidah Maʿsūmah is a beacon of inspiration. She dedicated her entire life striving towards and reaching the elevated status of Karāmah.

If we look closely at the life of Sayyidah Maʿṣūmah, we find that she was thirsty for attaining knowledge and the teachings of Allāh. In turn, Allāh made her final resting place one of the centers of knowledge. Qum, which is considered the nest of the Ahlul Bayt (A), is now a hub of knowledge. Seekers of knowledge from all over the world flock to Qum, a city that houses thousands of scholars and institutions, in pursuit of the highest level of knowledge. We can take this opportunity to bond with Qum and scholars.

The ten days of al-Karāmah are in honor of these two noble personalities who have made Qum the holy city that it is today.

We pray that through the lessons of this booklet, which focus on Karāmah and education, we are able to achieve high levels of ikhlāṣ (sincerity), Karāmah (honor), and ʿizzah (dignity), inshāAllāh.

JazākAllāh and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Meaning of Karamah

OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn the meaning of Karamah, what it takes to achieve it, and how Sayyidah Ma'sooma is a good example of one who has achieved Karamah.

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 35 Minutes

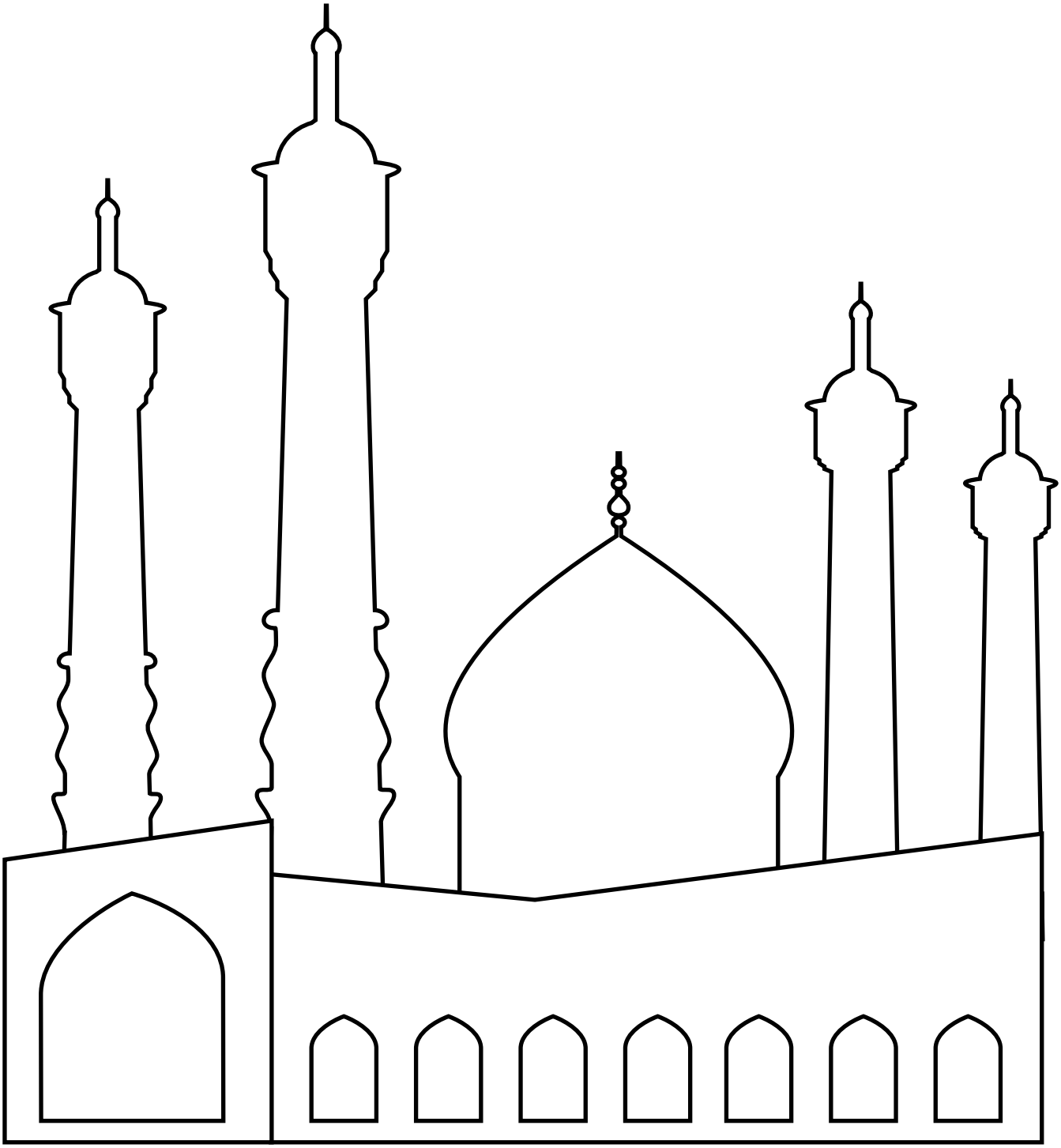
MATERIALS:

- Coloring page
- Crayons/Colored pencils
- Pens/Markers

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone. Welcome to another special program! Who can tell me what Islamic month it is right now? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Yes, it is Dhul Qa'dah, the 11th Islamic month. The first ten days of this month are known as the days of al-karamah. The days begin and end with the birth of two very noble personalities. Here is a hadith about one of them: Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a) said, "A lady from my children, by the name of Fatima will be buried in Qum. Whoever visits her [shrine], will certainly be admitted to Heaven."[1] Can anyone tell me who the Imam (a) was referring to? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Yes! Sayyidah Ma'sooma of Qum. How do you think she earned such an elevated status? (Wait for responses)
4. **SAY:** Great responses! Let's talk about one of her titles and how she achieved it. One of the titles of Sayyidah Ma'sooma is Kareemat Ahlul Bayt. This title means "the Noble one of the family of the Prophet (s)."[2] What do you think Karamah means? (Wait for responses)
5. **SAY:** Karamah can be defined as a combination of honor (honesty in one's beliefs and actions), dignity (self-respect), and kindness along with a state of God-consciousness. Sayyidah Fatimah Ma'sooma earned this title due to her knowledge, piety and closely following the Imam (a) of her time. The city of Qum, Iran, where she is buried, has become a center for Shi'a learning. Infact, it's called the nest of the Ahlul Bayt. Here is a photo of her holy shrine. (show image)
6. **SAY:** Today, we are going to write down some qualities and actions that we can strive toward to move closer to Karamah. Write one word or idea in each section of the holy shrine of Sayyidah Ma'sooma of Qum. (Hand out coloring page)
7. Some examples: knowledge, piety, honor, noble, kindness, dignity, good akhlaq, worship
8. **SAY:** Color and decorate the shrine as well.

1 Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 48, p. 317; vol. 60, p. 216 & vol. 102, p. 266
2 Zindagāni-ye Karimah-ye Ahl al-Bayt, p. 44



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Sayyidah Ma'sooma: The Little Scholar

OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn about the level of knowledge of Sayyidah Ma'sooma, the sister of our 8th Imam, Imam ar-Ridha (a).

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 40 Minutes

MATERIALS:

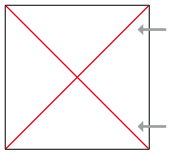
- Paper template (suggestion: pre-fold the template for younger children)
- Pencils/Pens
- Markers/Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue/Tape (optional)
- Thicker paper (optional)

PROCEDURE:

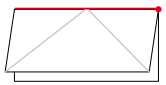
1. **SAY:** The first of Dhul Qa'dah is a the wiladah of a very special person. Does anyone know who that special person is? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** MashaAllah, good responses. Sayyidah Ma'sooma of Qum was the sister of Imam ar-Ridha (a). Her name was Fatimah, just like the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (s). Even at a young age, she was known for her great knowledge and piety. She had the opportunity to learn from her father and brother. Does anyone know who her father was? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Great! Yes, Imam Musa al-Kadhim (a) was her father. During his Imamat, the Shi'a used to come to his house in Medina to get their questions answered. Does anyone write a question or message to the Imam (a) of our time? (Wait for responses)
4. **SAY:** That's wonderful! It's good to write an ariza (letter) to Imam az-Zaman (AJ). Ok, back to the story. One day, a group of Shi'a went to Medina, to the house of Imam al-Kadhim (a) with their questions in mind. When they arrived, they found out the Imam (a) was away on a journey. So, they wrote their questions on a paper and gave it to the family of the Imam (a) for him to answer when he returned. Before leaving Medina, the same group passed by the house of Imam (a) to pay their farewell respects. Their paper was returned with the questions answered. They were satisfied with the answers and found out that Sayyidah Ma'sooma had provided the replies. She was only six years old at that time! Isn't that amazing, SubhaanAllah! It so happens, that the group passed Imam al-Kadhim (a) on their way home and told him all about it. The Imam (a) was very pleased.[1]
5. **SAY:** What are a few things we learn from this? (Wait for responses)
6. **SAY:** Yes! Those are great answers! We can get a better understanding of the incredible knowledge of Sayyidah Ma'sooma. Also, we learn the importance of gaining knowledge, asking questions and staying connected with the Imam (a) of the time.
7. **SAY:** Today, we will be writing our own questions to Imam az-Zaman (AJ) so we can expand our knowledge. You can see how the card seems to grow and expand, much like your knowledge when you ask questions. (Show how the folded card expands with opening. Hand out the templates or pre-folded cards)
8. **SAY:** Feel free to make them as colorful and decorative as you like.

1 Kashf al-La'ālī, vol. 7, p. 14

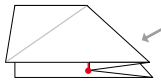
FOLDING INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Fold in half diagonally. Re-open
2. Fold other side diagonally. Re-open



3. Fold down in half horizontally



4. Take top-right corner and push it inward.

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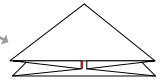
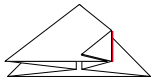
5. Repeat with the top-left corner.





6. Take one of the sharp corners and fold toward the center. Repeat for all 4 corners

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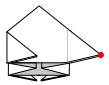

7. Fold out one of the corners and push it in like step 4. Repeat for all 4 corners.

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8. To improve sturdiness, attach a card with thicker paper to the outside. 4.5" x 8.5" folded in half is a reasonable size for this.

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Imam Ali ar-Ridha (a): Words of Wisdom

OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn a hadith of Imam ar-Ridha (a) about self-reflection.

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 40 Minutes

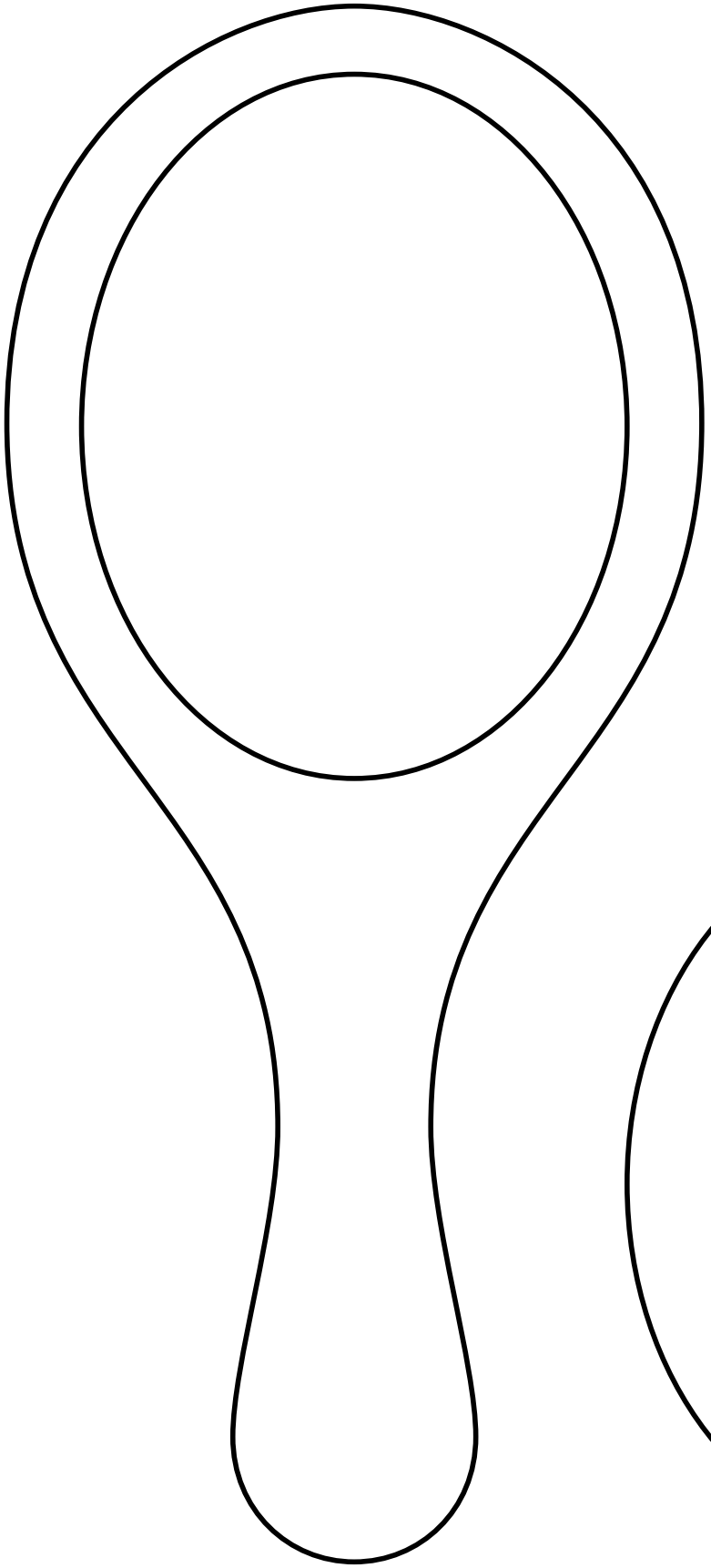
MATERIALS:

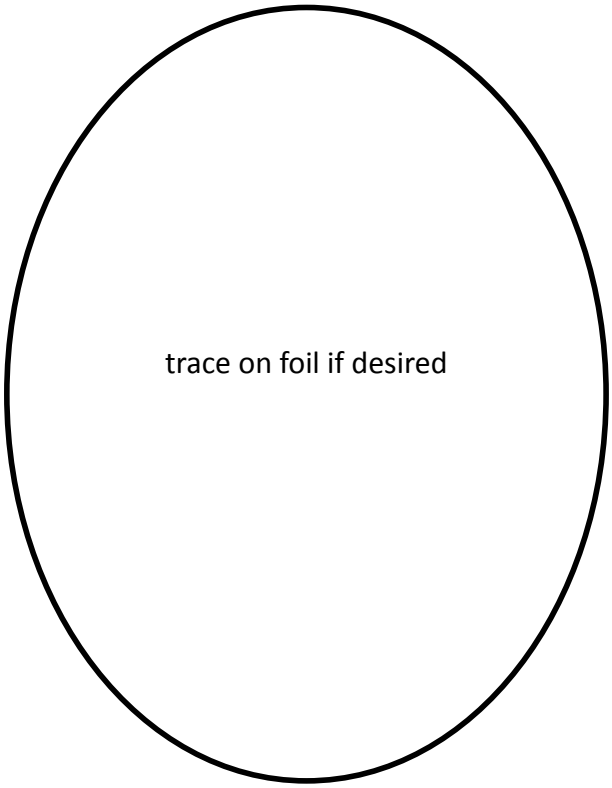
- Mirror template
- Construction paper
- Pencils/Pens
- Markers/Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue/Tape
- Aluminum foil (optional) (suggestion: teacher can pre-cut the foil ovals and be careful of the cut edge. It is sharp.)

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone. Eid Mubarak! As you know we are blessed to be in the ten days of al-Karamah. Today we will be talking about a special hadith of our 8th Imam (a). Can anyone tell me who our 8th Imam (a) is? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Yes, that is correct! Imam Ali ar-Ridha (a) is the 8th Imam (a). Does anyone know when his wiladah is? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Great job! You all are so intelligent, Mashallah! His wiladah is on the 11th of Dhul Qa'dah.
4. **SAY:** Do you know there are many ahadith (sayings) of all the Imams (a). Today we will be talking about one hadith from Imam ar-Ridha (a). Imam (a) said, "Reflection is the mirror into which you can look and see your virtues and your evils."[1] What do you all think this means? (Wait for responses)
5. **SAY:** Great responses! In this case, the Imam (a) wants us to reflect or think about ourselves and our actions. If we think back to what we did and how we were behaving, we can see what good things we have done and where we need to improve ourselves.
6. **SAY:** Let's all think about some of our positive characteristics and strengths. Now let's think about some of our weaknesses or negative characteristics. Inshallah, we can all work towards improving ourselves once we identify our weaknesses or shortcomings.
7. **SAY:** Today we will be making a special mirror, so we can remember to think about our positive and negative qualities. The mirror can help us remember this hadith and become more conscious of our actions and characteristics. (Hand out the mirror template)
8. Children can write the above mentioned hadith on the mirror. Encourage them to think about their strengths and weaknesses as they decorate the mirror.
9. Glue the mirror template to a construction paper, then cut it out. Optional: glue the foil oval on the back.

1 Fiqh ur-Riḍā, p. 380

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Imam Ali ar-Ridha (a): Imam Zamin

OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn about the title of the 8th Imam (a): Imam Zamin.

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

TIME: 45 Minutes

MATERIALS:

- Deer template (print or trace on brown construction paper)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers/pens
- Construction paper (any color) for imam zamin
- Ribbon (for imam zamin)
- Coin (optional) for imam zamin

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone! Can anyone tell me some titles of our 8th Imam (a)? (Wait for responses)

2. **SAY:** Yes! Great answers! One of his titles is Imam al-Zamin, which means "the guarantor". What do you think "guarantor" means?

3. **SAY:** Great guesses! Guarantor means someone who guarantees something or gives a guarantee or assurance. Let's read this story which shows an example of Imam ar-Ridha (a) as a guarantor of safety.

4. **SAY:** Once, when Imam ar-Ridha (a) was passing through the forest, a deer that was being hunted came and said something to him. (The noble Imams (a) have been blessed with the knowledge and ability to understand and speak to all creatures) Imam ar-Ridha (a) told the hunter that the mother deer asked to be allowed to live long enough to feed her children. And that she promised to return and let the hunter kill her. The hunter was doubtful and asked the Imam (a) what the guarantee was that the deer would come back. Imam (a) said, "I will give the guarantee and I will stand at this place until it returns." The hunter agreed to let it go and other people came to see what was going on. After feeding its kids, the deer returned, saying she was ready to be killed and asked the Imam (a) to care for her kids. People were astonished by this miracle and the hunter decided not to kill the deer. This is how Imam (a) became known as Imam-Zamin, "the Imam who is the Guarantor."[1]

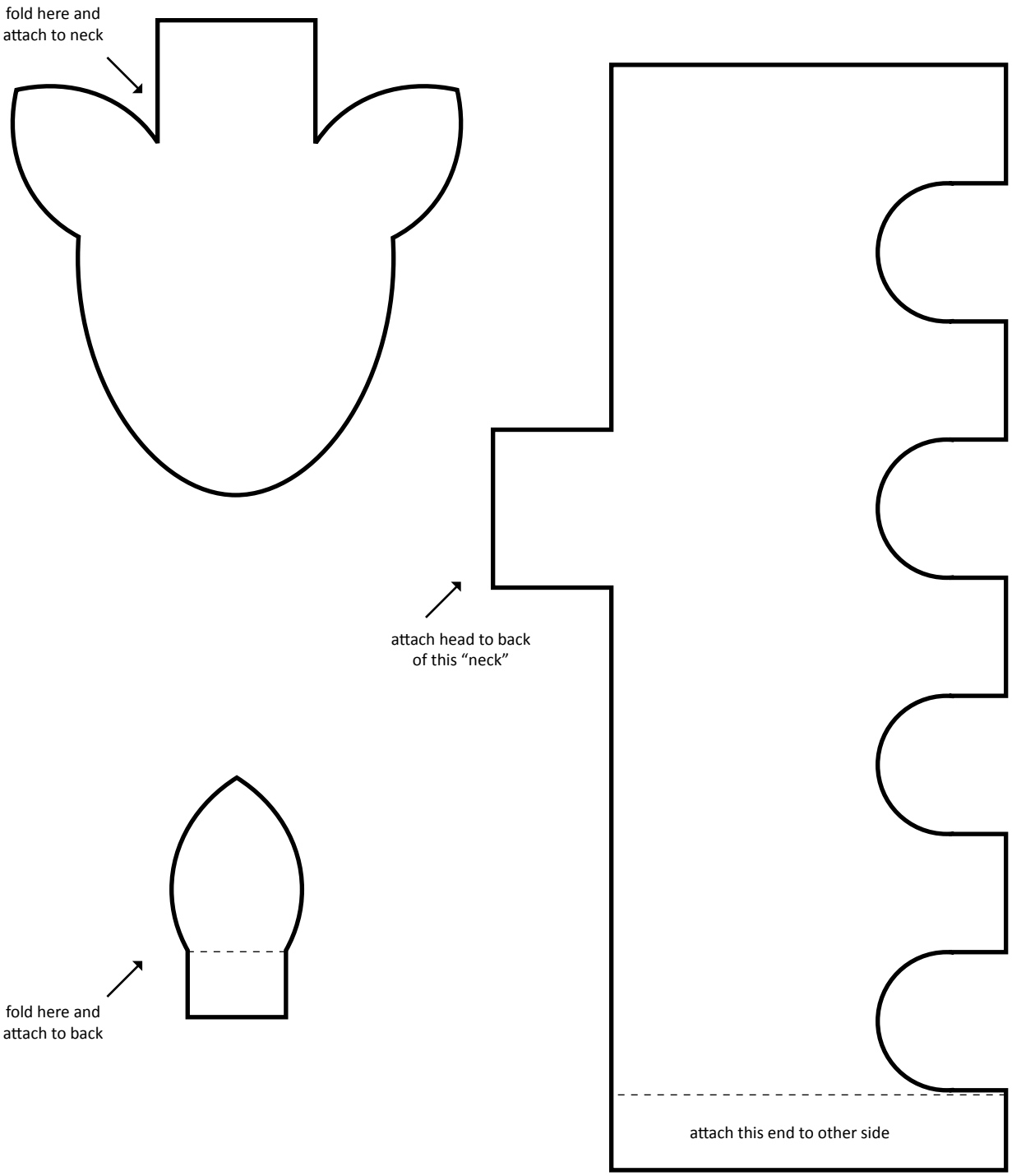
5. **SAY:** To remember this story we are going to make our own paper deer. (Hand out deer template and instruct children to draw/color the feet and face before assembling. Younger kids may need help cutting. They can write "I love Imam ar-Ridha (a)" on the deer.)

6. **SAY:** Have you all seen when someone is leaving for travel, they tie a band around their right arm with a coin or some money in it? (Wait for responses)

7. **SAY:** People tie this Imam Zamin band to remember the 8th Imam (a) and pray that the traveler stays safe. There was a time when the name of Imam ar-Ridha (a) was included on coins in Khurasan. People used to keep this coin with them in their travels for safety. Today, we get to make our own Imam Zamin bands! You can write his title and its meaning: al-Zamin "the Guarantor."

8. Hand out colored paper, scissors, markers. Fold construction paper in half. Draw a simple shape (rectangle, circle, oval) and cut both layers at the same time. Decorate the top page and tape the coin (optional) and ribbon to the bottom page. Glue the top page to the bottom page.

1 Manāqib Aal Abī Ṭālib Vol.4 pg. 348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attach this end to other side

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Importance of Siblings

OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn about the exemplary love of noble siblings (8th Imam (a) and his sister)

SUGGESTED AGES: 5+

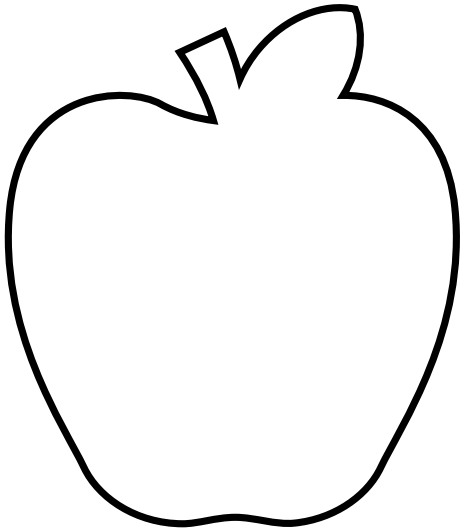
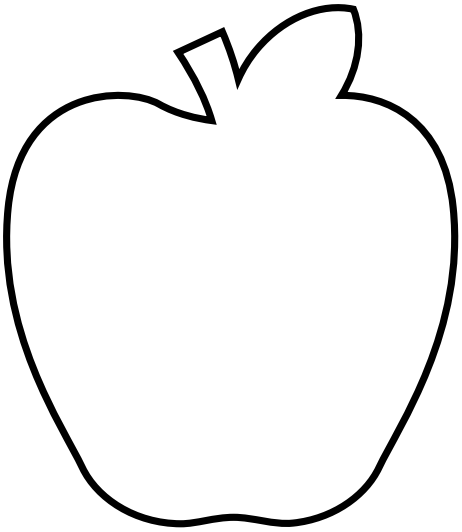
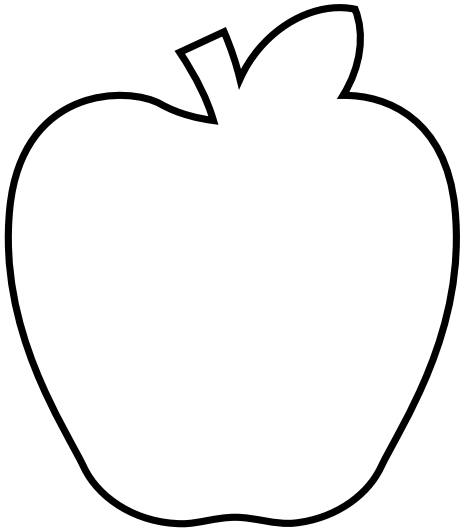
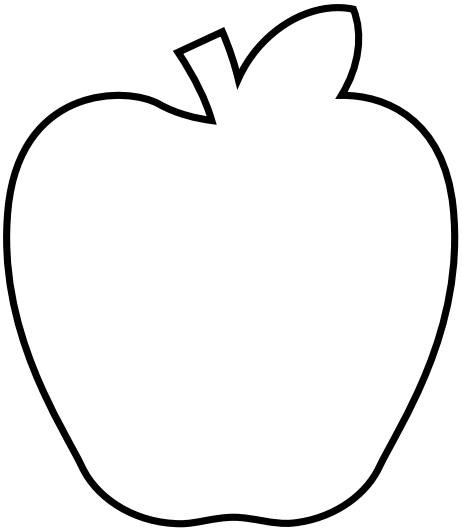
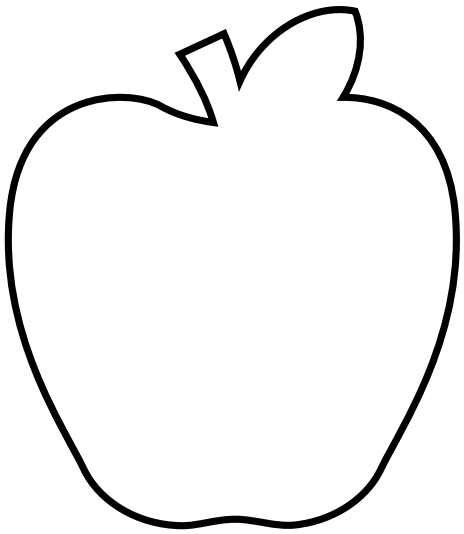
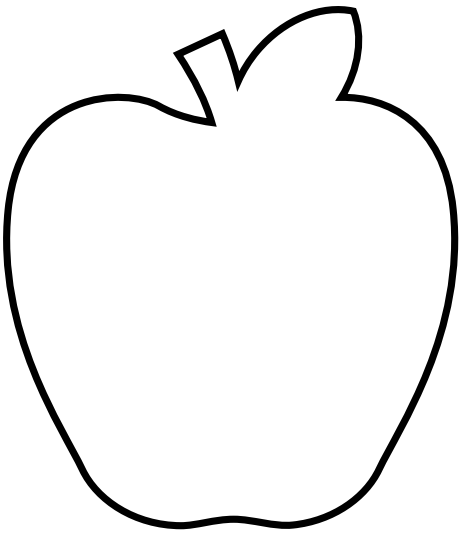
TIME: 35 Minutes

MATERIALS:

- Apple template
- Construction paper
- Markers/Pens
- Crayons/Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

PROCEDURE:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone. How many of you have a brother or sister? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** It's nice to have a sibling, right? You have someone to talk to, play games with and learn from. The love between siblings is a beautiful blessing. As we near the end of these ten days of al-Karamah, we will talk about a special brother and sister for whom these days are in honor of. Can you guess who they are?
3. **SAY:** Great! You all are so smart! Imam ar-Ridha (a) and Sayyidah Ma'sooma of Qum were born on the 11th and 1st of Dhul Qa'dah (respectively). Sayyidah Fatimah Ma'sooma was blessed to be brought up and taught under the guidance of two Imams (a). This contributed to her knowledge and piety. She dedicated her life to Islam and the mission of her Imams (a).
4. **SAY:** She loved her brother immensely [similar to the love of Sayyidah Zainab for her brother Imam Husain (a)]. When Imam ar-Ridha (a) went to Khurasan, she was greatly saddened and eventually decided to leave Medina and travel towards him. Despite the dangerous nature of the journey, her love for her brother and the thought of meeting him was worth it. Sadly, she died before reaching him, but her special bond and love for her brother will always be remembered.
5. **SAY:** Today we are going to make a family tree to remind us that we share the same roots with our brothers and sisters. Cut out an apple for each brother and sister (or cousins if you do not have siblings). Write their name on the apple and write or draw something that makes them special to you. You may color them as well.
6. Cut out a tree trunk and tree leaves. Glue parts of the tree on another construction paper and glue the apples on top.

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